

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 7

PETER AND JOHN ASLEEP IN GETHSEMANE.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 14:32-42.
GOLDEN TEXT—Watch ye and pray,
lest ye enter into temptation.—Mark 14:33.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Matt. 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1-11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—An Angel Strengthens Jesus.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Peter and John Fall to Sleep.

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Asleep on Gethsemane.

SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—Jesus Depends upon His Disciples.

1. Christ's Suffering (vv. 32-34).

1. The place (v. 32). The garden of Gethsemane—an enclosure containing olive and fig trees, beyond Kidron, about three-fourths of a mile from Jerusalem. The name means olive-press. The name is significant of the occasion. Adenham says it is an emblem of trial, distress and agony. Perhaps the garden was owned by one of Jesus' friends.

2. His companions (v. 35). He took with him the 11 disciples, that they might share, so far as possible, this sorrow with him. Being a real human being he craved sympathy. He bade them watch with him. While he knew that he must "tread the wine-press alone," he had a keen appreciation of sympathy so far as those who loved him could give it. The behavior of the disciples shows the utter limitation of human sympathy.

3. His great sorrow (v. 34). This is the same as the "cup" in verse 36. It was not primarily the prospect of physical suffering that was crushing him; it was the suffering as a sinner—the sensations of his pure soul coming into contact with the awful sin and guilt of the world. Only pure and refined natures can understand this. In addition to this, there was the judgment stroke from the holy God as it fell upon his Son instead of the sinner. God caused the iniquities of the world to strike upon Jesus (II Cor. 5:21; Isa. 53:6).

11. Christ Praying (vv. 35-42). Though he prized human sympathy in the hour of supreme need, his only recourse was prayer. The sympathy of our friends is helpful, but in the great crises of life we can find help only when we go to God in prayer. "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray" (James 5:13).

1. The first prayer (vv. 35-38). (1) His posture (v. 35). He fell on his face, prostrate on the ground. In the hour of our great need we naturally prostrate ourselves before God. This is a becoming posture. (2) His petition (v. 36). "Take away this cup from me." By the cup is meant his death on the cross. He did not desire to escape the cross. No doubt it was most grievous to him to face its shame, but he pressed on, knowing that for this cause he had come into the world (John 12:27, 28; cf. Heb. 2:14). He prayed that the "hour might pass from him," that is, that his life might be prolonged to die on the cross at the appointed time to make atonement for the sins of the world. The burden was so great that it seemed his life would be crushed out. His prayer was heard (Heb. 5:7). When God hears our prayers he grants the petition desired (I John 5:14-15). Angels ministered to him, giving the necessary grace to endure to the end (Luke 22:43). (3) His resignation (v. 36). His will was in subjection to the Father. He knew that his death on the cross was the will of God the Father; for he was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (4) The disciples rebuked (v. 37). He singled out Peter, since he had been the most conspicuous in proclaiming his loyalty (John 13:38). Though he would go with him to death, he could not watch one hour. (5) Exhortation to the disciples (v. 38). "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." The only way to be able to stand in the time of trial is to be watching and praying. Jesus knew that although the disciples meant well, they would fall in the trial unless aided from above. The flesh is too weak to stand the strain.

2. The second prayer (vv. 39, 40). He withdrew the second time from his disciples and uttered the same words in prayer. This was not vain repetition. It is proper to repeat our requests. He found the disciples asleep again. Their shame and confusion was more marked than at first.

3. The third prayer (vv. 41, 42). He uttered the same words in his third prayer (Matt. 26:44). He now tells the disciples to sleep on and take their rest, as the hour had come for his betrayal. There is such a thing as being asleep when wanted and awaking when it is too late. If the disciples had been praying they would not have fallen asleep.

Kindness, Cheapest of All.
The cheapest of all things is kindness, its exercise requiring the least possible trouble and self-sacrifice.—*Golden Rule*.

Opportunity.
Some men seem to expect opportunity to drive up to the door and take them for a joy ride.

The Dispatch-News job department turns out first-class work, and gets it out on time.

SENATOR POINDEXTER CRITICIZES MEXICAN POLICY

New York, Dec. 1.—U. S. Senator Miles Poindexter recently issued a statement in New York City criticizing our Mexican policy. The Senator said in part:

"There is a general feeling in the part of the country I come from and other parts which I have visited that the Mexican situation has been trifled with by the Administration in Washington and allowed to become unnecessarily acute and complicated through weakness and vacillation. Judging from the situation today, which could easily have been avoided, the expenditure of men and money involved in our several military expeditions into Mexico during the present Administration has been to no purpose, because they have invariably been withdrawn before they have accomplished the purpose for which they were sent. Incidentally, this futile policy has brought the United States into disrepute not only with the Mexicans, but with the peoples of other foreign countries, where, as a result, our prestige as a nation has been seriously impaired."

DANGERS OF HOOKWORM DISEASE ARE DISCLOSED

New York, Dec. 1.—Part 1 of the annual report of the Rockefeller Foundation, made public yesterday, tells of the shocking effects of the hookworm disease, as demonstrated by the examinations incident to the organization of America's draft army.

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There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and for years it was supposed to be incurable. Doctors prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Catarrh is a local disease, greatly influenced by constitutional conditions and therefore requires constitutional treatment Hall's Catarrh Medicine, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is taken internally and acts thru the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. One Hundred Dollars reward is offered for any case that Hall's Catarrh Medicine fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.

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Hall's Family Pills for constipation. Theory is a vine from which facts

and of the work being done for the eradication of the disease. The report reads in part as follows:

"The examinations for hookworm disease made among United States soldiers confirmed in a striking way the board's experience of the last few years, and demonstrated that even light hookworm infections are of great importance. Judged by the Binet-Simon and other tests, many full-grown soldiers who harbored comparatively few hookworms had the mentality of persons only 12 years of age. The mentality of 10,000 white men at Camp Travis who harbored the disease was about 33 per cent below normal. Negroes were infected quite as frequently as whites, but they appeared to be relatively immune to the serious effects

of the disease and did not show the same predisposition to other diseases or the same reduction in mentality."

While the report's discussion of hookworm still presents the disease as a menace to millions of persons, encouraging results of campaigns against it are related.

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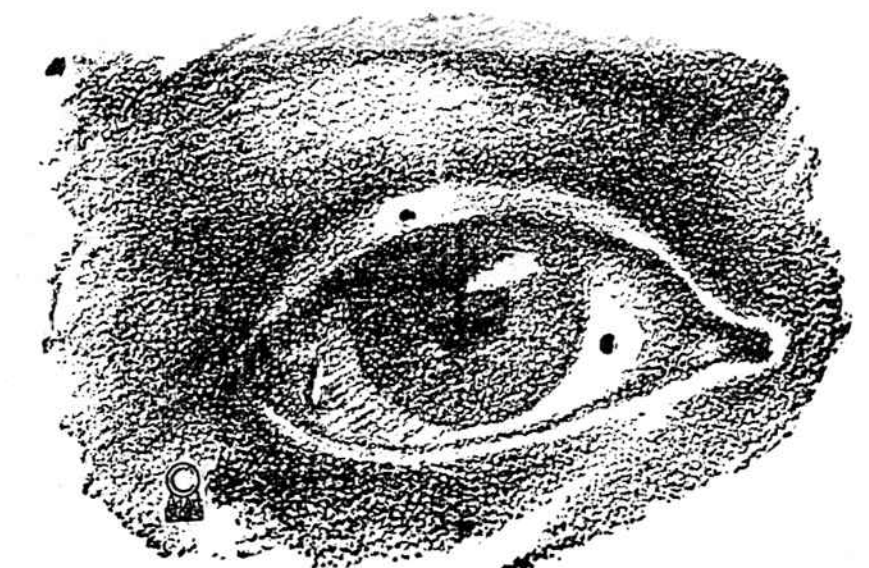
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